



Notley High School & Braintree Sixth Form



Mr R James, Deputy CEO & Executive Headteacher

16 December 2021

Dear Parents and Carers,

As a Local Governing Committee and Trust board we just wanted to send a few words out to you before the Christmas break. Since the start of term, we have been privileged to have been able to visit the school on many occasions and it has been a lovely opportunity to chat to the fantastic students and staff and see examples of the hard work, enthusiasm, and dedication toward moving the school forward. It has also been great to see that despite the restrictions of COVID, so many students have been able to get involved with amazing opportunities and causes both within school and the wider local community, which offer both them and others enrichment.

We have also been busy this term, recruiting a new Headteacher for the school. Despite the schools' challenges, we had a good field of candidates apply and were absolutely committed to not just appointing *someone* into the post, but to ensuring it was the *right person* for our school and community, and its journey.

We are delighted to let you know that following a very rigorous and competitive process, involving a range of stakeholders (including many students), that Miss Margaret Ryan will be joining us from February Half Term as substantive Headteacher. Miss Ryan has experience in leading on school improvement as Headteacher at Brentwood County High School and whilst she will have overall responsibility for the strategic and operational leadership of the school, will continue to draw upon the wider support, resources and opportunities afforded by being part of a larger Academy Trust with 4 secondary schools.

We would like to take the opportunity to thank Dr Cusick, who has done a great job over the past 18 months, stepping into the role as Acting Head of School, alongside Mr James (as Executive Headteacher) and supported the school through some very difficult circumstances. This was however never intended to be a permanent arrangement and the appointment of a substantive Headteacher will allow her to focus on some specific areas of work which she is passionate about, including the quality of teaching and learning. Dr Cusick will become Senior Deputy Headteacher and Mr James will revert to Deputy CEO within the Trust and Director for Secondary Schools.

We would also like to thank you, as parents and carers for your continued support of the school and its journey toward becoming a vibrant, engaged and inclusive community of amazing young people.

We hope that you enjoy the festive break!

Regards,

Mark Farmer
Chief Executive Officer

Dr Claire Hooks
Chair of Governors
Notley High School and Braintree Sixth Form

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